Licence on TV Sets

278. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the licensing system on television sets;

(b) if so, whether a Committee has been set up in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Exodus of Doordarshan Officials

279. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of officials of the Doordarshan are joining foreign TV network by seeking premature retirement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the officials who have joined foreign TV network with/without seeking permission of the Government; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A number of Doordarshan officials have recently sought voluntary retirement/ resigned from service on personal grounds.

(c) and (d). Government are not aware of their joining foreign TV networks as none of these officers has sought the requisite permission.

[English]

Electrification of Track between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam

280. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to electrification of track work between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam; and

(b) the time by which electrification work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). As on 31.10.96, out of the total of 366 route kilometre in the Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section, 201 route kilometre have been electrified. The electrification of entire section is planned for completion by March, 97.

Konkan Railway Project

281. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T. :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of routes and main cities proposed to be connected with rail link under the Konkan Railway Project alongwith the work completed thereon so far;

(b) the time by which the Konkan Railway Project is likely to be completed and made available for passengers as well as goods traffic;

(c) whether the construction work on doubling the line on Shornur - Mangalore and on other lines has been entrusted to the Konkan Railway Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Konkan Railway passes through the following important cities/towns :

Roha, Khed, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Kankavli, Kudal, Sawantwadi (Sawantwadi Road), Mapusa Road, Old Goa, Madgaon, Karwar, Honnavar, Kumta, Bhatkal, Kundapura, Udupi and Suratkal.

The Sections from Roha to Ratnagiri (203 kms) and Mangalore to Kundapura (100 kms) has already been opened for passenger services and Ratnagiri to Sawantwadi (160 kms) section has also been completed and is expected to be opened for passenger services by mid December, 1996.

As such, the whole project is likely to be completed for goods services and passenger services by March 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign TV Network

282. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mauritius TV software company has been allowed with association with another company based on Mauritius to assume 100 per cent control of its Indian subsidy; and